

The Portal



BALMORAL HALL SCHOOL
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Founded in 1901

Balmoral Hall School, a university preparatory school, educates, encourages and empowers young women who excel academically, possess a passion for learning, set high standards for personal achievement, and who will be self-confident leaders of tomorrow.



The Portal, a publication of Balmoral Hall School's Advancement Office, is distributed to over 4000 members of the BH Family — parents, alumnae, grandparents, staff, parents of alumnae, former staff and friends of the School.

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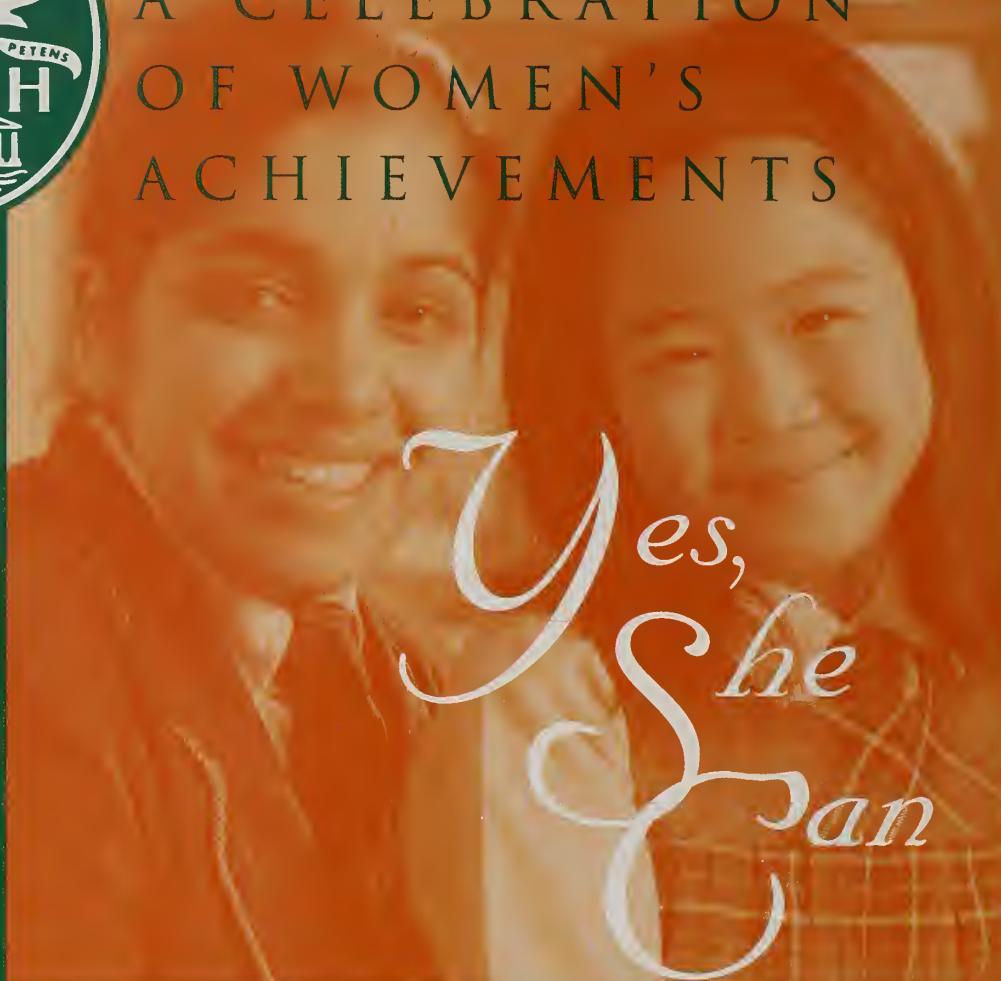
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L-R: Harriet Zimmer,
Guidance Counsellor,
Dr. Marlene Snyder
and Claire Sumerlus
at the BH anti-bullying
kick off.

Head of School Message

Claire Sumerlus, Head of School

As the days lengthen towards spring, I am struck by how quickly the school year seems to pass. In no time, winter clothing will be put away, the trees along the river bank in front of Balmoral Hall School will begin to leaf out and we will be preparing the Class of 2006 for their next adventure in life. Another way we mark the passage of the seasons is by monitoring the progress we are making in meeting the challenges laid out in the 2004–2009 BH Strategic Plan “Building the Future, Today”.

As I have shared with you in the past, the Plan provides the framework for enhancing the excellence that has always characterized the academic, athletic, fine and performing arts programs, as well as other aspects of educating the whole child at BH. I would like to draw particular attention to three initiatives we have undertaken in the past few months that I believe illustrate our commitment to building excellence in our BH community.

For the past year, a committee of staff, students and parents has worked to set in place the policies that ensure a safe, yet open school environment at BH. Key to this is an action plan to address bullying in all forms—physical, verbal, social, sexual and in cyberspace. While we are pleased that reported incidents

of bullying are very low, we believe that **even one** negative experience is cause for concern and action. In January, our parent community took the first step in our multi-year action plan by making a family commitment to a safe school. In February, we invited dignitaries to join us in celebrating the school-wide actions we have taken. You will find details and photographs of this event in the following pages. BH’s efforts to lead the way in creating a warm welcoming school climate have been recognized by international safe schools experts, including Dr. Marlene Snyder, of Clemson University, who commended BH for taking the actions required to ensure all students are able to enjoy their school experience and focus on their education without fear of bullying behaviour by their peers.

Another way we are building a vibrant BH community is by continually seeking ways to diversify—our student population, our academic programs and the experiences of our students. In early March, we announced the launch of the BH Blazers Hockey program and now, for the first time, girls and young women will be able to receive comprehensive high performance hockey training along with a rigorous academic curriculum in Manitoba. The BH Blazers Hockey program will benefit many

areas of BH—increasing scholarship opportunities for our students, enhancing the athletics curriculum for the entire student population, sustainability and diversity for our residence and increased international profile for BH.

Enhancing the international profile of BH continues to be a main tool for recruitment and retention of students. Our International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IBPYP) received Candidacy Stage, in recognition of the progress we have made in building this program in Junior School. Last December, I was invited to present an overview of the BH approach to excellence in girls education to a group of dignitaries and officials in Russia on behalf of the American Councils for International Education.

In closing, I invite you to share the accomplishments achieved this year at BH by reading the articles that follow. I welcome your comments and suggestions on how we can continue to demonstrate the value of a well-rounded BH education characterized by rigorous academics, involvement in the arts, appreciation of lifelong athletics, the development of leadership and personal management skills and a commitment to the community.

STAND TALL AT BALMORAL HALL



Leah Werier receives a certificate for her winning slogan "Stand Tall at Balmoral Hall".



Mentor buddies work together to create anti-bullying posters.

Harriet Zimmer, BH Guidance Counsellor

The Balmoral Hall School Bullying Prevention Program is a school-wide effort designed to send a message that bullying will not be accepted at school.

Formed in September 2003, the Safe School Committee, comprised of administrators, teachers, parents and students, began to develop a policy on bullying for Balmoral Hall School. They chose the internationally acclaimed, research based **Olweus Bullying Prevention Program** to guide the implementation because it is a comprehensive bullying prevention program that provides empirical evidence on its effectiveness, timelines for implementation and includes program evaluation procedures. Well designed and implemented programs create an improved climate by educating staff, parents and students to recognize and respond to instances of bullying.

Bullying doesn't cease at the doors of the School. It is a community issue and our success is dependent on strong partnerships between students, staff, parents and the broader community. This initiative supports spreading anti-bullying messages beyond BH's doors. It includes detailed information on bullying, surveys, general suggestions for reducing bullying and a guide to help teachers and parents recognize if a child is being victimized or bullies others. Core components for the program are implemented at the school, classroom, individual and community levels.

Last year, approximately 500 students in Grades 3 to 12 participated in the Olweus Bully/Victim survey. While we are pleased that a very low incidence of bullying behaviour was reported,

we believe that **even one** negative experience is cause for concern and action. Twice this year, Dr. Marlene Snyder, Ph.D. from Clemson University and a trained representative from the Olweus Program, educated staff and parents about bullying behaviors, response strategies and resources. BH parents have also signed a Statement of Commitment to a Safe School.

The BH Mentor Buddy Program (Kindergarten to Grade 12) made bullying efforts more visible through art by making quilts depicting anti-bullying situations. At the community kick off event on February 16, 2006, students, through dramatic plays, music and the making of bracelets reinforced our commitment to a safe school. Messages of support were extended from BH Board of Governors Chair, Mr. Chrys Pappas, Parent Association Chair, Mrs. Wanda Zajac and local MP, The Honourable Anita Neville and Mr. Rob Altemeyer, MLA. The winning Anti-Bullying Slogan by Grade 11 student Leah Werier, "Stand Tall at Balmoral Hall", will appear on a pin for all students to wear as a reminder of school rules and that adult help is always available.

The BH Family takes pride in our culture of academic excellence in an atmosphere of empathy and caring. By ensuring **all** students are free from the negative effects of bullying, we are laying the foundation for the confident, empathetic and enthusiastic leaders of the future.



Left to right: Alanna Flom,
Anita Neville, MP and
Jaclyn Flom, with their
"BH Cares" bracelets.



Singing "Best Friends"
at assembly.



Catherine Simons and
Rob Altemeyer, MLA with
their "BH Cares" bracelets.

Another First for Balmoral Hall School in Manitoba

International Baccalaureate Organization Primary Years Programme

Roma Konyk-Pastuck,
Grade 3 Teacher

2006 promises to be an exciting year for Junior School as we embark on the final leg of our journey towards authorization to offer the International Baccalaureate Organization Primary Years Programme (IBO PYP). This will make Balmoral Hall School the only school in Manitoba to offer the PYP to its students, and we will be among 21 authorized schools in Canada, and one of the four in Western Canada. The International Baccalaureate Organization presently works with 1,731 schools in 122 countries worldwide. The aim of the PYP is to foster the total growth of the developing child, touching hearts as well as minds and encompassing social, physical, emotional and cultural needs in addition to academic development. (www.ibo.org/pyp/) The BH mission statement is complemented by that of the IBO: The International Baccalaureate Organization aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end, the IBO works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right. Junior School did not arrive at this threshold overnight. The decision to implement the PYP was made by Balmoral Hall School with support of the Board of Governors beginning in 2002. After researching the International Baccalaureate Programme which is based on best practices in planning, teaching and assessing, the school embarked on a journey of implementation. Significant professional development opportunities are required

by the IBO to ensure that all teachers are trained according to their standards. BH teachers have travelled to Charlotte, San Diego, Vancouver and Toronto to take part in IBO Teacher Training workshops. As well, BH has been visited by IBO authorized trainers who mentor teachers and assist in the refinement of existing Units of Inquiry.

Over the last four years, Junior School teachers have created engaging interdisciplinary Units of Inquiry at each grade level. The PYP stresses cooperative planning by classroom and specialist teachers, resulting in a comprehensive approach to the central idea being explored in each unit. Outside the Junior School Office is a large grid, the Programme of Inquiry, which features descriptions of every Unit of Inquiry for all of Junior School. The culmination of a PYP education is the Grade 5 Exhibition in which students carry out an extended collaborative inquiry project with the guidance of their teachers.

The PYP curriculum can be thought of as a challenging overlay taught in addition to the provincial curriculum. It greatly extends the learning opportunities afforded to students, and encourages the development of critical thinking and a broad, international perspective on subject matter. In addition to the challenging curriculum, the PYP fosters the development of many positive characteristics. PYP students are thinkers, inquirers, communicators, risk-takers, principled, caring, reflective, knowledgeable, balanced and open-minded; attributes described in the PYP Learner Profile. From the earliest grades, students are encouraged to understand, identify and embody these attributes. As teachers, we recognize, model and discuss the attributes as part of daily classroom life.

The staff of Junior School is proud to be a part of the journey towards full International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme accreditation.



Balmoral Hall School completed its second Critical Challenge Fair on November 30, 2005. This wonderful event brought together students, parents and staff from Kindergarten to Grade 12 for an evening of learning and fun. Students showed their parents how to use critical thinking skills to make reasoned judgments in the different subject areas.

Critical Challenge Fair



Left to right: Marissa Woods, Madeline Lischka, Priya Kotecha, Ella Thomson, Montana Muir, Alexandra Wade, Kathleen Kopp, Luxmy Navaretnam encourage their audience to understand French through plays.



Left to right: Stevan Leipsic, Torrence Robertson, Ashlyn Kettner, Courtney Weinstein, Rachel Solomon, Hannah Korsunsky, and Michaela Vickar who presented a Critical Challenge on the novel *Lord of the Flies*. The question they posed to their audience was "What would you have done differently to ensure survival?"



Left to right: Sarah Sytnyk, Emily Ferguson, Vanessa Leung Shing, Mirett Awadalla, Nika Korpesho, and Louné Blom evaluate 6 different pieces of music then design movement sequences that represent the melodic and rhythmic qualities of those pieces. Students then performed their interpretations of the qualities of music through movement.



Juliana Loewen and Elizabeth White test various beam designs to see which is the strongest.

Traveling the World through Debating

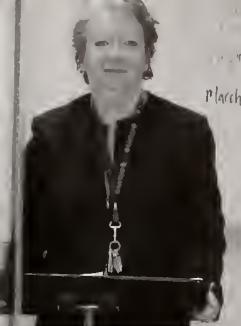
Michelle Maryk '06

Kiran Dhillon and Michelle Maryk, Grade 12 students, attended a debating tournament on January 12, 2006 hosted by St. John's Ravenscourt School where they debated the resolution, "This house believes that outsourcing is beneficial to Canadian Society." At this tournament, they qualified for the 2005–2006 National High School Debating Championships hosted in February at Lower Canada College in Montreal.

Mrs. Greenhill accompanied the girls who did very well debating against Canada's finest debaters. The debaters from Manitoba went as a team and stayed together in a hotel downtown. They had a ball experiencing and exploring Montreal together. Michelle and Kiran enjoyed their action-packed trip, where they managed to do some shopping and visit some French cafés and restaurants. Above all, the sole purpose of their trip was to debate and the girls both successfully accomplished their goal and gained great skills from their experience.



Michelle Maryk '06 (left) and Kiran Dhillon '06 (right)



Believe, Achieve, Succeed in Debating!

Audrey Greenhill, Debating Teacher

Mrs. Greenhill has been teaching at Balmoral Hall School for the past 19 years.

I believe that Balmoral Hall School's debating program is invaluable. I believe that scheduling debating into each student's timetable (Grade 6 to 10) is judicious. I believe that my Grade 11 and 12 debaters, who have chosen debating as an option, understand why their debating experience is invaluable. I believe that debating cultivates critical thinkers!

What does each BH debater achieve during her journey in the world of debate? While accompanying these students on their debating journey, I have witnessed their numerous achievements. These accomplishments include: being more aware of global issues; gathering, assessing and organizing relevant information; practicing speaking in front of a group; improving listening skills; open-mindedly evaluating both sides of an argument; anticipating the possible arguments of an opposing side; raising vital questions and recognizing

key issues; responding thoughtfully to others' arguments; increasing their vocabulary; confidently communicating more effectively; and having a growing commitment to being lifelong learners.

These achievements contribute to each student's successes outside of the debating classroom. Each debater has the opportunity to participate in Manitoba Speech and Debate Association's events and tournaments. Debaters may then qualify for national and international competitions. BH debaters have achieved numerous successes at these tournaments and I look forward to more success in the future. Some debaters believe that their debating experiences have prepared them for and given them a distinct advantage in various situations such as interviews for scholarships or jobs. Their commitment to the debating program, in spite of their busy schedules, necessitates their being effective time managers. The life skills earned from active participation in BH's Debating Program is a valuable career investment for our eloquent speakers of the future!



Alexis Kozak '06

In the summer of 2005 while most students were sleeping in, four Winnipeg teenagers were working hard at local charitable organizations through a new initiative developed by The Winnipeg Foundation. The Summer Internship Program paired the youths with mentors at local organizations who had previously received grants from the Youth in Philanthropy Program. Alexis Kozak, Grade 12 student, was one of the four teenagers selected to participate in this experience. The following is her speech that she shared with delegates on National Philanthropy Day.

Youth in Philanthropy

Alexis Kozak '06

I am a member of Youth in Philanthropy (YiP). YiP is a program designed by The Winnipeg Foundation to introduce local high school students to philanthropy and community development.

Last summer, I received the position of a YiP Summer Intern. This pilot program involved four YiP students from different Winnipeg high schools and four charitable organizations. Each organization hosted a student for the summer.

I worked at Reaching E-Quality Employment Services—an agency that promotes the employment of people with disabilities. As an intern, I participated in regular staff meetings, worked with volunteers, witnessed employment

World Class Success

On the weekend of February 18th, Kiran Dhillon, Grade 12 student competed at the Canwest National Public Speaking and Debating Championships. She was one of the two Manitoba representatives based on her previous results at Rupert's Land Debating Tournament.

Kiran made it into three of the four final rounds for Debating, Persuasive Speaking as well as Impromptu Speaking and placed fourth overall.

Because of this high ranking, Kiran received a spot on the Canadian Team to compete at the World Public and Debating Championships held in Connecticut in late March. Competing against over 70 students from around the world, Kiran placed in the top half overall. Well done!

Summer Internship Proves Valuable

counselling sessions, attended partnership development meetings, attended a capital campaign meeting, learned about people with various types of disabilities and their accommodation needs, and I learned how to communicate with deaf individuals using an ASL interpreter. I also did research and helped develop a presentation for Reaching E-Quality Employment Services's 25th anniversary.

I did not have any work experience prior to this job although I did have volunteer experience. Since this was my first job I was extremely nervous to start but I am glad I did it! This internship introduced me to the workforce, the charitable sector and to the depth of our city. I'm glad that I was involved in Youth in Philanthropy to experience this great opportunity.



Volleyball Season in Review

Developmental Volleyball Teams

With a full slate of players, both developmental teams showed a lot of enthusiasm and improvement over the season. We were fortunate to submit two teams into the league because of the number of interested players. We are certain the skills and sportsmanship that the players learned this year will give them a sound basis for next year's season. The Physical Education Department would like to extend an enormous round of thanks to the parent volunteers who coached the developmental teams.

Coaches: Ms. Almstrom, Mrs. Sanheim

Staff Supervisor: Mr. Jared Cook

Coaches: Ms. Darrach-Cottick, Mr. Lacombe

Staff Supervisor: Mrs. Lois McGill-Horn



The Junior Varsity Volleyball Team with coach Mrs. Christine Kerr.

Junior Competitive Volleyball —2nd Place Finish!

It is with great pride that we announce that the Junior Competitive Volleyball Team placed 2nd out of 13 schools in the final standings. The girls won the semi-final game defeating St. Emile School on November 25, 2005. The final game was the next day against St. Alphonsus School where we came in a close second place.



The Junior Competitive Team with coach Mrs. Judy Christie and assistant coaches Robyn Zajac and Kate Langrell.

Junior Varsity Volleyball

With a 10-0 win streak and an excellent final game, the Junior Varsity team learned to build their character, skills and teamwork. They were committed to learning, playing and improving each run, practice and game. They displayed sportsmanship in all situations and represented Balmoral Hall School proudly.

Varsity Volleyball

Although the varsity girls did not make the playoffs this year, they remain proud of their record and of their season. The highlight of the year was winning the silver medal at the Western Canadian Independent Schools' Volleyball Classic in Prelate, Saskatchewan. The team showed enormous character when they took on the hometown favourite Notre Dame in a packed, pro-Saskatchewan gym. Other highlights included an article on the team in the Winnipeg Free Press, a second place finish against the Churchill Bulldogs, and a great weekend away at a tournament in Ashern to close out the season.



The Varsity Volleyball team with coach Mr. John Kerr.

We would like to thank all the parents, staff and students who were involved with volleyball this season.



BH's Cindy Lukianchuk (left) and Kaytlin Drews, both 16, are eager to crack the Blazers' lineup.

Thursday, March 2, 2006
Winnipeg Free Press
Jason Bell

A select group of Balmoral Hall School students already scoring high marks in the classroom will be scoring goals on the hockey rink next winter.

The Winnipeg private school for girls is adding an elite hockey program for the 2006-07 season—one that school officials say will rival the best travelling teams in Canada and the United States.

Balmoral Hall School is taking a page from renowned university preparatory schools such as Athol Murray College of Notre Dame in Wilcox, Sask., and Shattuck-St. Mary's School in Minnesota to offer a high-performance hockey program to go with its outstanding academic offerings.

The Balmoral Hall School Blazers, under the tutelage of head coach and director of hockey operations Dean Rebeck and assistant coaches Ralph Nespor and Bob Ouellette, will include many of Manitoba's premier female hockey players age 15 to 18.

Elite School Touts Elite Hockey

Balmoral Hall School team recruits girls who want to become top players

"The dream was always to try and give Manitoba girls an opportunity to play here," said Claire Sumerlus, Head of School at Balmoral Hall School, which is located on Westminster Avenue. "The girls we've recruited could play anywhere." A few of the players that ultimately make the 19-player roster may already be attending the school.

BH students Kaytlin Drews, 16, of Snow Lake and Cindy Lukianchuk, 16, of Erickson play hockey with the St. James Canadians' AA midget girls' team, but are both anxious to crack the Blazers' competitive squad in the fall.

"It would be so amazing to be categorized with some of the best players around," said Drews, who has some gigantic dreams when it comes to hockey. "My ultimate goal is to get a university scholarship and to play on the Canadian Olympic team."

Lukianchuk said she's already preparing herself for the difficulties of balancing a heavy academic workload and the rigours of a high-performance athletics program.

"We'll work hard and get through it," she said. "They're already preparing us to be the best we can, both at school and with hockey, too."

For other recruits, the opportunity to play at Balmoral Hall School will be a chance to come home. Samantha Wauer, 16, plays defence for the Notre Dame Hounds in Wilcox, about 600 kilometres away from her home in Oakbank. Ron Wauer said the opportunity for his daughter to attend Balmoral Hall School this fall is simply too good to pass up.

"We're really excited about it," he said. "We wanted her home, and we honestly believe this will be a program that allows her to develop her hockey skills and her academics. For us, it's the best of both worlds."

The elite team is registered with Hockey Manitoba, meaning athletes are eligible to play in tournaments across the country and the U.S. And that's where university scouts—and scholarship opportunities—are hanging out.

"Our main goal is to promote our girls, to increase their exposure," coach Rebeck said. "If you're enrolling your daughter at Balmoral Hall School, you're investing in her future, academically and athletically. "When she comes out of BH, she'll walk into any university and be ready for the hockey program and the classroom."

The price, mind you, isn't for the faint of heart. Annual tuition for a day student at Balmoral Hall School is \$11,500 per year, or \$25,000 if the student lives in residence, although bursaries are available.

The Blazers will hold practices and games at the Winnipeg Winter Club. They will not play in the Winnipeg Women's High School Hockey League.

The hockey program will include a junior varsity team that will play the bulk of its games locally, as well as after-school skills camps and a summer hockey school for girls age nine and up.

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Girls for the Cure



Beginning the run to The Forks and back.

Despite rainy and cold conditions, the Girls for the Cure walk/run was a huge success. The Assiniboine riverwalk became a sea of pink as students ran to The Forks and back. Once back at the School, a cheque was presented to CancerCare Manitoba for \$15,000 of raised funds. Way to go Balmoral Hall School!

Thank you to our event sponsors:

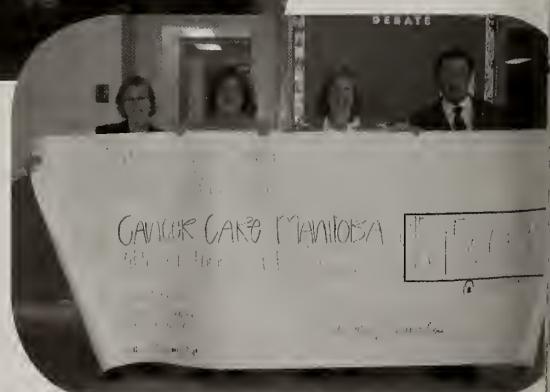
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Melanie Riggs, Michelle Maryk, and Kathleen Murray celebrate in "pink power" style.



Taking a break along the river walk.



Balmoral Hall School was thrilled to once again support cancer research in Manitoba.

Day of Giving



Left to right. Samantha Machado, Maya Schwartz, two Mulvey School friends, Dakota Cull and Courtney Parada Leitao take some time to visit with Santa.



Middle school students prepare gift bags for residents of Misericordia Place.



Preparing some holiday crafts.



Mrs. Sheps gets ready to bake delicious cookies for our neighbourhood party.

On December 22nd, 2005, the students in Middle School held their annual blitz to prepare gift bags for the 100 seniors who live in Misericordia Place and the 174 seniors who are residing in the interim care units at the hospital. The girls were very busy writing personal notes to each resident, making ornaments and loading the bags with combs, Kleenex, fruit, and candies.

After lunch, students visited our friends at the residence and the hospital. They sang, delivered the gift bags and had the opportunity to chat with the seniors. What a wonderful way to begin the holidays! Many thanks to all the students and staff, especially Mrs. Christie, Mrs. Green, Mrs. Sammons and Susan Shorthill Lopez, Manager of Volunteer Services for the Misericordia Hospital. The students have since composed reflective comments about this experience for their personal portfolios.

Our Senior School students chose between a day of volunteering in the community or staying at BH to organize and facilitate our 5th Neighborhood Party for the primary students of Mulvey School. Students in Grades 1, 2, and 3 joined our students for an afternoon of crafts, entertainment and refreshments. This was a festive way to kick off the holidays and we thank everyone who participated.

Shelby Sytnyk and a Mulvey School friend share a delicious sugar cookie.





Students attending a theatre workshop in New York.

Performing Arts on the Road!

Robin Dow, Performing Arts Teacher

In October 2005, thirty-one of our students had the opportunity to visit New York for an art and performing arts enrichment tour. It was a whirlwind of sound and sights that we will remember for the rest of our lives.

The art students visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Guggenheim Museum, while the performing arts students went to Broadway Dance Center for some special workshops. Of course, the evenings were dedicated to Broadway musicals and what a rich diversity we saw; "Moving Out", "A Night at the Piazza", and to finish off, "Hairspray". The girls enjoyed each Tony award winning production, and have since started learning some of the music from Hairspray.

We also toured downtown New York, took in all the tourist attractions, and even managed to fit in some shopping. Highlights of our sightseeing were going through NBC studios and visiting Madame Tussauds Wax Museum. The wax museum had a karaoke coffee shop that was over-run by our microphone-crazy performing arts girls!

The girls had a marvelous time and learned the true value of comfortable walking shoes. We didn't stop for the four days we were there. New York is truly the city that doesn't sleep, and no doubt all participants will cherish the experience as an especially wonderful Balmoral Hall School memory.

Luckily, touring this year has included the Middle School students. They will be packing their bags for a performing arts trip to Orlando, Florida in May. Thirty-four excited girls will be singing and dancing at both Universal Studios and Disney World. They will also attend some dance and voice workshops and of course, take in a theme park or two.

The School, Mr. Budoloski and I are very proud of the girls, because these performance opportunities are by audition only. This troupe will be pioneering a new phase of Balmoral Hall School's performing arts, as this is the first time that we will be performing out of the country. The girls will return home as seasoned and polished entertainers who no doubt will have countless stories to tell!



School Field Trips

The students of Balmoral Hall School kicked off the school year with many action-packed and educational field trips. Not only have they been a tradition for many years, the trips build a sense of community, teamwork and cooperation within the groups. The students get to know one another better and the lessons they learn are then brought back to the classroom.

Seen here are Grade 6 students at Camp Arnes north of Winnipeg, Grade 7 students at YURT Camp in Minaki and Grade 8 students at the Renaissance Festival in Minneapolis.



Heather Naughten and Lois McGill-Horn in the Presentation Hall at the Innovative Teachers' Conference.

Heather Naughten presents a BH Inukshuk to the Canadian Ambassador.

Poster presented at the conference outlining the different phases of Digital Storytelling.



Asia-Pacific Innovative Teachers' Conference

In February 2005, the Grade 6 classes along with teachers, Mrs. Heather Naughten and Mrs. Lois McGill-Horn, embarked on a technology project that integrated their English novel study and the Social Studies curriculum.

For this assignment, the students had to read a historical novel and choose how they would best represent the story digitally. They could choose to take digital photographs, draw and scan their own pictures or use existing images and paint additional characters that related to the story. They then wrote a synopsis of the story and recorded it as narration. The images were matched to the narrations to create a digital story.

The students found this an engaging way to complete a novel study and were excited to present these stories to their parents at our Student-Led Conferences in May. The parents were impressed with their daughter's ability to use the technology.

Microsoft Canada piloted an award program in Manitoba in the spring of 2005 to recognize innovative teachers. The project that the Grade 6 classes had just completed met the requirements of the award criteria and Mrs. Naughten's name was submitted to the selection committee. Balmoral Hall School was

honored to be notified in June that she had been recognized as one of Manitoba's Innovative Teachers and was invited to join other world-wide recipients at a conference in Seattle. Unable to attend, Mrs. McGill-Horn attended on her behalf and was accompanied by a team of other Manitoba recipients.

Impressed by the Canadians' projects, presentations and enthusiasm for technology in Seattle, Microsoft Asia-Pacific invited the Canadian team to attend the 2nd Asia-Pacific Innovative Teachers' Conference in Seoul, Korea. Both teachers participated in the week long conference with Mrs. Naughten presenting her award-winning Digital Storytelling project and Mrs. McGill-Horn co-hosting the Canadian presentation on Information Communication Technology (ICT) in Canada. Delegates from 25 countries participated in the conference, most being from the Asia-Pacific region but some came from Europe and the USA. The conference program was designed from and with the perspective of innovation. Participants were taken through a combination of formal and experiential learning. It was a fascinating experience and many new discoveries and connections were made. The teachers gained a new appreciation

for the challenges that many countries face when integrating technology into their schools. They saw schools in Korea equipped with tablet PCs for each student, to schools having only one laptop for every 100 students and some not even having electricity.

Prior to the conference, the Canadian team was invited to the Canadian Embassy in downtown Seoul for a tour and was treated to lunch by the Canadian Ambassador, Mr. Marius Grinius. During lunch, he discussed the role Canadians, particularly teachers, play in Korea. He also described the Canada Day celebrations which are very important to Canadians living far from home.

"What has innovation to do with educators?" was a question posed at the beginning of the conference. The answer—Everything! The world we live in today is evolving at an unprecedented pace, and learners are evolving right along with it. Innovation is not about re-inventing the wheel, it is the ability to connect and combine ideas so that new solutions emerge. Balmoral Hall School's learning community of students and staff is certainly making those connections.

Maple Program brings fresh faces each spring (*Mastery of Authentic and Practical Language Program*)

Each spring, Balmoral Hall School welcomes students from Shizuoka Eiwa Girls School in Japan who come to Winnipeg to participate in an extensive English language program which is mixed with sightseeing and Canadian cultural activities. The Maple Program Coordinator from Shizuoka Eiwa Girls School, Hidenao Suzuki, recently wrote to acknowledge the positive results that have stemmed from this program.

"We are often amazed at just how much improvement the five months makes. We have also noticed that the students become more independent of their families while in Canada. With this maturity comes a willingness to take up challenges and to listen to others. All of these improvements are thanks to your efforts and kindness.

The Maple Program is proving to be a success and we hope that it will continue for a long time to come. You

can see from the students' comments that they learn many things other than English from their stay in Canada. They mention learning the importance of international relationships, being surprised at Canadians patriotism and learning the many uses English can have. Their Canadian experience is made all the more pleasurable by the kind and gentle way in which you treat them. Also, the extra-curricular activities that you plan for them are fun, interesting and different. All of this combines to make a great learning atmosphere.

Last but not least, the first group of Eiwa students who studied for five months in 2004 has had great success in their university entrance exams. We achieved our goal and really appreciate your cooperation."



Students from the 2005 Maple Program talk to Premier Gary Doer.



Maple students from 2005 visit the Golden Boy at the Legislative Grounds.

Above and Beyond North America: Head of School visits Russia

In the fall of 2005, Claire Sumerlus, Head of School, travelled to Russia as a member of the American and Canadian Consortium of Independent Schools which is part of the American Councils for International Education. This not-for-profit organization has a mission to advance education and research, cultivate leadership, and empower individuals and institutions through learning. It administers exchange and training programs between individuals and institutions. The goal of this particular trip was to learn more about Russian students who may be interested in applying to schools in North America.

Members of the consortium from five schools met in Washington where an initial conference was held. During the conference, background information on Russian education was shared. Typical school life was examined including school activities and the format for report cards so that when students apply to a school abroad, the admissions personnel will know how to properly assess them.

From Washington, members travelled to Russia where they visited a private school in St. Petersburg and a state-run school in Moscow founded by a group of professors from the University

of Moscow. The tours of the different schools allowed Ms. Sumerlus to have a firm understanding of Russian culture and school life. She also noted that all the students who attended these schools spoke English very well.

After the school tours, a press conference was held where members of the consortium spoke about boarding schools in Canada and the United States. From this press conference, over 200 inquiries by Russian families were made and Ms. Sumerlus is pleased to announce that our first student from Russia has been accepted to Balmoral Hall School for the 2006-07 school year.



Annual Fund Makes its Mark on BH

Geneviève Delaquis, Advancement Office

Our Annual Fund is seeing great success once again this year. Thank you to the parents, alumnae, staff, Board of Governors, grandparents and friends of BH who have helped us raise over \$156,000 (March 30, 2006).

The Annual Fund supports student enrichment and program enhancements and is the vehicle to support the growth of our Endowment Fund. Every day, our teachers and staff strive to exemplify excellence

and inspire the girls and young women of BH. Your participation ensures our graduates are prepared for their roles as leaders and shows that as a community, we are all committed to excellence in girls' education.

This year, we are proud to celebrate 100% participation of our Board of Governors and every member of our Staff, an accomplishment few schools in Canada can claim. A big thank you to the 36 parent volunteers who have been contacting fellow parents to invite their support. We couldn't do it without you!

Together, we will exceed our goal of \$187,500. If you have yet to participate, please join our many supporters before June 30th in order to be listed in the 2005-06 Annual Review. Contact the Advancement Office at (204) 784-1603 for more information.

Building an Alumnae Legacy

In the fall of 2005, alumnae received information about the new **Alumnae Future Generations Fund**. Since then, over \$8,000 has been raised towards creating a scholarship for the daughter or granddaughter of an alum.

The alumnae of the 1980s who created the fund believe so strongly in it that they have **challenged all alumnae to join them in making a 4-year commitment to ensure the fund can allocate a scholarship soon.**

When asked how they feel about BH and why they felt it was important to have more alumnae sending their daughters to BH, Tannis Leach '83 told us, "I always try to encourage my daughter Paige to 'think big'... and then work your thoughts backward as to how to get there... I like that her school thinks the same way. I'm very proud to be associated as a parent and an alum today."

When you consider your gift this year, think about making a difference in the life of a young woman who would otherwise not have access to a BH education. This is an opportunity for you to not only give back to the School, but to support a future alumna.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title 'Balmoral Hall On-Line Donations'. A message at the top says 'Donate with confidence. You're on a secure server!'. Below is a 'Donor Information' form with fields for: Full Name (Suzie Smith), Affiliation (Alumnae), Year of Graduation (1984), Address Line 1 (123 Main Street), Address Line 2, City (Toronto), Prov/State (ON), Postal/Zip Code (M1M 1M1), Country (Canada), Daytime Telephone (416) 456-7890, and E-Mail (susiesmith@hotmail.com). There is also a checkbox for 'Accept future appeals via e-mail?'. The Balmoral Hall logo is in the top right corner of the page.

Online Giving Is It Safe?

**Have you ever made an online gift?
Wonder if it is safe?**

Balmoral Hall School is pleased to offer online giving so that at any time of day or night you can make a secure credit card donation to the School—no paperwork or stamps required!

Our Online Giving is provided by Net Directories Inc. a Toronto-based company that has provided our alumnae an Email Directory since 1999. They have proved to be reliable and trustworthy using an industry-standard Verisign certificate to ensure the security of your credit card information.

All donations can still be directed to the fund of your choice. Upon making your gift, you will receive a confirmation email and your tax receipt will then be mailed. To date this year, 40 donations have been made online! Visit www.balmoralhall.com/onlinegiving to make your gift today.

PLANNING FOR HER FUTURE

Tina Alto, Director of Advancement

One of the most thoughtful ways to support Balmoral Hall School is actually much easier than you may think. Through planned giving, you can benefit from making a gift that provides a lasting remembrance of your commitment to the girls of BH. There are a number of ways to do this and with the guidance and direction of a financial advisor the process for each can be quite simple.

In October of 2005, BH hosted an afternoon for alumnae with planned giving expert, Tim Chimuk, Executive Financial Consultant with Investors Group and BH alumna Carol (Premachuk) Steel ('83), Family Services Professional with Alderwoods Group. Targeted to address the many decisions our mature alumnae face, Tim and Carol helped lay out a process for dealing with end of life issues, such as ensuring the validity of existing wills and taking action to pre-plan one's funeral to alleviate the burden on family. They also brought forward the many financial opportunities not taken advantage of—**no one really wants to make the government a beneficiary do they?**

Time working with a financial advisor is truly time well spent. They ask questions about your long term plans, your values and goals for family or a charity you might have supported for many years, and also how you can plan to continue to support organizations you care about after you have passed away.

Planned giving is an excellent way for you to structure your gifts to maximize available tax benefits. The tax efficiency of a planned gift by an individual who donates in excess of \$200 in a year guarantees a tax credit in the highest tax margin (approx. 46 per cent in Manitoba). Even people in lower income brackets get a large tax savings if they donate in excess of \$200 in a given year.

Making an outright gift of cash is an easy way to ensure the present needs of BH are met or the gift of cash can be used to build an endowment fund like the Future Generations Fund. A donation receipt for the full amount is issued, ensuring immediate tax savings. If you own publicly-listed securities, consider gifting your securities instead of cash. You will realize great tax treatment, a lucrative option to outright cash gifts.

Making a charitable bequest is the most common type of a deferred planned gift. A codicil appended to an existing will, or a few sentences in a new one, could specify a sum of money, shares or any particular asset. A donation receipt is issued to your estate for the full value of the bequest and the resulting tax payable on the final income tax return could be significantly reduced.

Many of our older alums have expressed concerns about the large amount of tax they owe on withdrawals from RRSPs or RRIFs. This is especially worrying when you have sufficient income from other sources. By donating funds from their RRSP to Balmoral Hall School, alumnae can essentially collapse their plan tax-free!

But what if you might need the money from the RRIF and you also want to support BH? If you have no dependents and no plans for a beneficiary, making Balmoral Hall School your beneficiary during your lifetime will also ensure you have access to the RRSP/RRIF if needed. Any remaining funds go to BH and the offsetting tax receipt goes against your final tax return.

Purchasing a life insurance policy or using an existing policy with Balmoral Hall School as the owner and beneficiary is another deferred planned gift option. Paid by the donor, the premiums are tax deductible and qualify for annual gifts.

For younger alumnae this is an excellent way to become a significant supporter of BH—perhaps a million dollar donor! Your premiums are low and can be fulfilled in a little as 10 years with annual tax receipts offsetting your personal tax debt.

The options of planned giving are many and with a little direction it's easy to **zero in on the plan** that best suits your needs. If your wish is to support the educational experiences at BH and the future graduates who are destined to make a difference please contact the advancement office—I **would love to help your wish come true.**

This Year in the Archives

Lyn Stephen '57 Archives Volunteer

Concurrent with what they were learning in their classrooms about "Belonging", the Kindergarten classes enjoyed a visit to the School Archives located in Aikins House to look at the various school uniforms, and to see how a student shows which school she belongs to by the uniform she wears.



Kindergarten class shown sitting on the staircase in Aikins House.



Claire Meier, Kindergarten student, enjoys looking at past uniforms in the School Archives.

"Red House" Bricks

When the Red House was demolished in 1961 to make way for the construction of Dalton House, bricks from the house were sold as a fundraiser. Does anyone still have one of these pieces of history?

During their study of World War I, the Grade 6 students learned something of life on the homefront by hearing about Havergal College during the first year of the war. The Havergal Magazine of 1914-15 tells the story, from the frontispiece bearing the photo of General Samuel Steele, commander of the Second Canadian Expeditionary Force, to the Principal's stirring letter to the girls urging selflessness and service for the war effort. Miss Jones wrote, "... we must count up what we have to give... our men have given all – home and fortune and life itself. We stay-at-homes must not be behind them in daily surrender and sacrifice." That year there were fewer events and entertainments than usual. The Forms contributed monthly out of their pocket money to the City's Patriotic Fund and the whole school, "from the Principal down to the maids" took up knitting. By the end of April, over 250 knitted items (scarves, mitts, helmets and socks) had been sent to the Red Cross Society for soldiers overseas. The apparent enthusiasm for this activity is reflected in the Magazine in an article, "Of Knitting", jokes, and even a cartoon.



Meghan Fitzpatrick '04, a 2nd year History Honours student at the University of Winnipeg, researching for a paper on curricula in early girls' schools in Winnipeg, found pertinent information in the calendars and yearbooks of Havergal, Rupert's Land and Riverbend schools.

On request, a researcher who is writing a history of Trafalgar Castle School in Whitby, Ontario was provided with information about Miss Jessie May Carter during her fifteen years as Principal of Riverbend School. In 1950, Miss Carter became Dean at the Ontario Ladies College, (now Trafalgar Castle School) where, in the researcher's words, she "made an important and indelible impact".



Two Grade 6 students, Katrina Barkwell (left) and Suji Kang (right), are conducting research on Havergal/Rupert's Land and Riverbend schools for their Heritage Fair projects.

Classes of 1952, 1977 and 1978...

We are asking for your help in filling the three empty spaces in the permanent display of BH grad class photos in the School's atrium. If you have a "white dress picture" for one of these years, please consider lending it so that a copy can be made. The original would then be returned to you with our thanks.

Warm thanks to all those who have enriched our archival collection recently with their donations of memorabilia:

Angela Willard BH '86
Deborah Metcalfe BH '76
Margaret (Martin) Williams RLS '37
Lois (de Courcy O'Grady)
& Tomas Pavlasek RLS '37
Nancy (Webb) MacLean BH '61
Lynn (Funnell) Pady BH '61



BH in the cities

Head of School and Director of Advancement Visit With Alumnae

This year, we have been fortunate to travel to both the East and West Coasts of Canada to visit with alumnae. Claire Sumerlus, Head of School and Tina Alto, Director of Advancement held receptions in Toronto, Vancouver and Victoria.

Thank you to everyone who joined us at these events.



Elizabeth (Betty) Trimmer RLS '32, Mary (Bays) Gardner RLS '43, Tina Alto, Marsha Eve (Dangerfield) Roblin '65, Claire Sumerlus, Sybil (Agnew) Butterfield RLS '44 and Shirley (Donaldson) Berlin '60 in Victoria.



Linda (Leach) Radcliffe '63, Millie (Shandro) Fournier '63, Dora Dempster '63 and Rosemary Hanna '63 in Vancouver.



Tara Lemieux '90, Shannon (Garrett) Nevison '90, Heather (Jessiman) Partridge '90, Brenda Halliday (past staff), Rebecca Staunton '90, and Claire Sumerlus in Toronto.



Deirdre Malone '67, Vicki Griffiths '67 and Joanne Sutherland '63 visit in Toronto.



Allison Pigden '04 and Vanessa Heron '04 in Toronto.



Claire Sumerlus, Corinne (Anderson) Sawchuk RLS '49, Rosemary Hanna '63 and Margaret Hanson (past staff) in Vancouver.



Cindy (Shore) Burton '78 in Vancouver wearing her BH kilt.

Cindy (Shore) Burton '78, Karen (Collins) Cameron '69, Lauire (Myers) MacDonell '69, Alex (Banfield) Sawchyn '81, Rosemary (Lee) McConnell RLS '42 and Claire Sumerlus in Vancouver.



L-R: Kim Hurst, Cathy (Young) Montrose '53, Colleen Furlan



Did You Know?

Currently there are 742 active members on our Alumnae Email Directory. The directory provides a safe and secure way for alumnae of the school to view email addresses of classmates, mentor profiles, and contact information. It also provides a fast and easy way for alumnae to update their email, address and personal information. To sign up, go to the Balmoral Hall School website at www.balmoralhall.com and follow the link to the "Alumnae Email Directory". If you have signed up previously and have forgotten your password or log in information, email alumnae@balmoralhall.com and we can reconnect you. It's a great way to stay connected!

Do You Know Someone on the Lost List?

On the Balmoral Hall School website, we have an extensive list of alumnae who are missing in our records. Visit www.balmoralhall.com and follow the "Alumnae" link to the Lost Alumnae page. Updated information can be sent to alumnae@balmoralhall.com or mailed to the school.

Aikins House Tea

On October 17, 2005, Balmoral Hall School welcomed the Duchess of Montrose, Cathy (Young) Montrose '53, from Glasgow, Scotland, her sister Elspeth (Young) Nickerson RLS '46 from California, and cousin Jocelyn (Young) MacGibbon RIV '46 from Ontario. All three ladies travelled to Winnipeg and were able to meet up with old friends and classmates. In attendance were Judy (Patton) Hall '53, Jean Brown RIV '45 and Donna (Smith) Plant '52 all of Winnipeg.

After a tour of the School, tea and dainties were served in Aikins House. Our guests were treated to a performance by Kim Hurst, Grade 2 and Colleen Furlan, Grade 7 who are both members of the Highland Dance Program at BH. The alums then headed up to the School Archives to look at memorabilia from their days at BH, Rupert's Land and Riverbend.

We thank the ladies for allowing the School to host such a wonderful afternoon. Please note that Aikins House is available to alumnae who would like to get together and visit. Thank you to Lyn Stephen '57 for arranging a display in the School Archives.

Cathy (Young) Montrose '53 and Judy (Patton) Hall '53



Congratulations to the Class of 1956 who graduated 50 years ago!

4th Annual Real Deal University Spiel

On October 8, 2005 Balmoral Hall School hosted its 4th annual Real Deal University Spiel. Eight alumnae came to the School from all over Canada to speak with Grade 12 students about their university experiences. We would like to thank our alumnae as the information they provided will be put to good use by our soon-to-be graduates.



Graduates share their experiences in the Common Room with current Grade 12 students.

Backrow L-R:
Lyndsey Wallis '05,
Allison Pigden '05,
Lauren Stone '05,
Whittney Ramage '05,
Front row L-R:
Tiffany Sobczak '04,
Leah Wong '04,
Vanessa Mancini '05,
Navdeep Bhullar '05



Current Grade 12 students view Allison Pigden's portfolio.

Class of 1995 Celebrates

In July 2005, alums from the Class of 1995 gathered at Aikins House to catch up on the past 10 years and relive their days as BH girls. With only a handful of grads still residing in Winnipeg, the reunion was tricky to coordinate but everyone worked together to make it a success. The group took a tour of the School, opened their time capsule and visited their cement handprints. Although an extensive itinerary was planned, horrible weather and a late, late, late girls' night resulted in the original plans being tossed out the window. Those plans included going to Hy's on Lombard for drinks and Winnipeg Beach for lunch and sun tanning. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate for the "Lunch at the Lake" and catching up from their late night forced them to cancel their evening at Hy's. They all agreed however that it was great to see old friends again, renew old bonds, and build some new memories. Thank you to Rebecca Lechman '95 and the Advancement Office for planning this event.



Tara (Stupak) Fodor,
Simone Lee, Rebecca
Lechman, Maria
Reimer, Brandi Donald,
and Suzanne (Smith)
Andre visit their
cement handprints
from 1995.



Baby Ella Porth, daughter of Ali Lechman, Class of 1995
Beginning bib on for size!

Home for the Holidays

On December 22, 2005, Balmoral Hall School hosted Home for the Holidays in Aikins House. This event is held annually in December when young alums are typically home to visit family and friends for the holiday season. This year, we had a record attendance, with alumnae from 1995 – 2005 gathering for wine, sushi and a lot of reminiscing. Thank you to everyone for joining us and we look forward to seeing you in December 2006!

Kristin Westdal '98 and Mrs. Greenhill



Left to right: Ginny Lechman '98, Deenish Roopra '01 and Tina Alto, Director of Advancement. Deenish also coaches the 14 and under club volleyball team at Balmoral Hall School.



Left to right: Marisa Campanelli '04, Mrs. Sammons, Amy Ludwig '04, Allison Pigden '04 and Vanessa Heron '04.



Kyla Caners '04 and Mrs. Friesen



Left to right: Natalie Smith '02, Hilary Moir '02, Sarah Briggs '02 and Erin Mitchell '02.

An Inside Look



Balmoral Hall's history spans over a century. In its lifetime, the School has graduated hundreds of young women who have gone on to make their mark on local and international fronts.

Three young alumnae share with the Balmoral Hall School community where life has taken them and what they have been doing since graduation.

We'd love to profile you!

Help us make "**An Inside Look**" a regular feature in *The Portal* by letting us know where life has taken you, or give us a lead on a classmate! Aimed at highlighting the many achievements of our alumnae, we look forward to sharing many more stories that will inspire the BH community.

Please contact Ginny Lechman '98 in the Alumnae Office at alumnae@balmoralhall.com or (204) 784-1615



Experiencing Different Cultures, Different Languages, Different Work and a Different Life: My Adventure in Africa

A profile of Jane Polak Scowcroft '03



Engineers Without Borders is a Canadian charity focused on local public engagement and overseas long-term development work. It is mainly comprised of university students and Engineers Without Borders Manitoba is the local. It began on campus three years ago. In addition to events run across campus

and in the local community, EWB runs a program called Junior Fellowship. This program sends engineering students from across Canada to work on various engineering projects in developing countries. Canadian engineering undergrads are sent far and wide to learn about other cultures, and apply the knowledge they have learnt in the classroom to real world situations.

Last fall, after long nights spent thinking about whether I was willing to dedicate my summer to development work, more long nights filling out application forms, and an interview with the EWB head office in Toronto, I was picked as the U of M Junior Fellow. When I found out the news, I was scared, excited, nervous, elated and worried. I was a second year Computer Engineer and I had to ask myself "What on earth do I know about international development?"

However, since that night when I found out I was heading to far and distant lands, I have discovered that you don't need a degree in International Development Studies to do development work. The basis of most development projects is trouble-shooting. If, when presented with a problem, you can sit down and critically analyze it and develop feasible solutions then you are half way to making someone's life a little bit easier.

I have spent months reading about international development, researching EWB projects such as drip irrigation and gravity-fed water systems, and completing education modules on topics ranging from corruption in development, subsistence

farming and rural livelihoods. Throughout my readings my excitement grew as I came to the realization that I would soon be participating in these projects, and I will be able to share my experiences and stories to those going overseas next summer.

Located on the East coast of Africa, Tanzania is the 5th poorest country in the world, with the average Tanzanian earning about \$600 a year. Thankfully, there has not been a great deal of warfare in the country, but the AIDS epidemic hit the population severely about 10 years ago. As a result of the spread of AIDS, the average age of a Tanzanian is an astonishingly young 17.6 years.

I worked with a local NGO called Family Alliance for Development and Cooperation (FADEC). One of my main projects over the summer was developing new technologies for fruit and vegetable drying. The rainy season provides abundant produce, yet there are no ways of preserving it for the dry season. My organization was trying to address this need through the use of appropriate technology. The second project was formulating an information technology policy for the area of Tanzania I was living in. Communications were one of the biggest barriers to continued education and one of our goals was to see the local high schools using computers and connected to the Internet.

My summer was one of many challenges but accompanying successes. It was a lesson in humility and it gave me many opportunities to appreciate new experiences. It's an adventure I recommend everyone should embrace if the opportunity presents itself. The most important message I learnt this summer, however, was that educational backgrounds, social backgrounds or racial backgrounds are immaterial when you have the passion to dedicate time to international development. Every person reading this has the ability to contribute something to eradicating poverty.



Jennifer Verlaine Lukovich (Balmoral Hall School, 1991, B.Sc. (4yr), Math and Physics, University of Winnipeg, 1995, M.Sc., Condensed Matter Physics, University of Toronto, 1996, Ph.D., Atmospheric Physics, University of Toronto, 2001) is a Research Associate in the Centre for Earth Observation Science (CEOS) within the Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources at the University of Manitoba.

Beginnings: A profile of Jennifer Lukovich '91

Imagine recesses outdoors careening down hills in toboggans, playing tag amongst trees, and swinging as high as gravity will allow, until you can almost touch the clouds and the sky. **These are days that I recall at Balmoral Hall School.**

Imagine noses buried in books, eyes cast upwards to a new author who has created a world thought to be entirely your own, chemistry labs, and wave tanks demonstrating the foundations of physics. Imagine poems interspersed amongst calculus, history amongst foreign lands, debate amidst language, and activity amidst art. **These are the years that I recall at Balmoral Hall School.**

Indeed an inspiring and enlightening environment for children – an education that provides opportunity and a desire to learn more – a world that instills a curiosity and enthusiasm fostered for years to come.

When the gates beyond Balmoral Hall School are encountered by its graduates, the lessons of respect and responsibility accompany a determination to discover hope and promise in a less than ideal world. And with such lessons, the opportunities to explore are endless.

As Canada's future, BH girls have the means to become leaders on the international stage of success, measured not in terms of salary or status, but rather in terms of their capacity to contribute to the world as compassionate and responsible human beings.

My interests lie in a commitment to environmental stewardship, and on an economy driven by environmental responsibility. As an atmospheric physicist, I am interested in patterns between sea ice and the atmosphere (think of waves from those wave tanks subjected to winds at an altitude of 25 km, and bring them back to the surface with a thin layer of ice floating on top), and climate change. Also of interest, however, are the means to address climate change, and an integration of disciplines that formed such a central component of the educational system at Balmoral Hall School.

Manitoba, and indeed Canada, has the potential to take great strides on the stage of environmental stewardship. The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Montreal was testament to this dedication. Research in Manitoba universities on climate change and alternative energy technologies such as plug-in hybrid vehicles is an exciting area of science and engineering for new high school graduates.

As a concerned citizen, I am interested in the health of Lake Winnipeg and Manitoba's urban forests. Lake Winnipeg is a freshwater lake in peril that could serve as a model of sustainability for Manitoba, and an example of benefits reaped from environmental stewardship. Innovation, research, discovery, and perhaps most importantly, dedication by concerned citizens will save this Lake from increased nutrient loading.

And yes, trees are a fundamental interest. The lone white pine to the south of Aikins House has witnessed many a hand impression from departing graduates following June Closing Exercises. The grove of trees leading down the river has been home to many games and newly discovered worlds, depending on season and temperament. The perimeter of fir trees along Westminster and Langside has grown with its students to present a stately wall of greenery. Trees, perhaps more than any other entity, provide evidence of a strength, with their root structure, and a freedom, with their branches that epitomize the essence of humanity.

As aspiring artists, scientists, politicians, and writers, BH graduates have the ability to engage in the effort for environmental stewardship. William Blake's "And did those feet in ancient time", will reverberate in their minds as they encounter the world beyond BH's grounds and walls of discovery, and recall recesses, classroom discussions, friendships and acquaintances. The world and the environment in particular, await their enthusiasm.



Peace as a Process and a Goal: A profile of Marcie Hawranik '02

Mr. Hawranik, Marcie Hawranik '02, Melanie (Hawranik) Sobering '98 and Prime Minister Stephen Harper.



Since graduation from Balmoral Hall School in 2002 I have been very busy. I am currently a fourth year Political Science Honors student at the University of Manitoba specializing in International Relations. It is my belief that being Student Affairs Prefect and an active debater at BH provided me

with the basic knowledge of global political issues which sparked an interest in me to pursue it further. In the four years that I have been in University, I have continued volunteering at a variety of different University student groups and community groups.

Within the U of M, I am the student representative on the Political Science Undergraduate Committee where I discuss undergraduate issues with faculty members in Poli Sci. I have been on the Political Science Students' Conference Organizing Committee for the past two years. This is an international conference organized by Political Science Graduate Students. Last year my job was the PR and Media Coordinator for the conference, and this year I was the Internal Coordinator. I have also worked as a research assistant to Dr. Jessica Senehi at the Arthur V. Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice at the University of Manitoba. I conducted research for the Director of the Centre on the use of storytelling in conflict resolution. This is particularly interesting and very important because in the aftermath of a large conflict (e.g. Genocide in Rwanda), it takes approximately ten years for the UN or ICC to organize a war-crimes tribunal. During this time interventions are needed. Storytelling has proven to be very effective in this interim period in promoting reconciliation and healing. In many instances the people find themselves living next to the person that raped or killed a family member during the conflict but have not yet been charged or sentenced due to the war-crimes tribunal delay.

Currently I am working at the Arthur V. Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice organizing events. I am in the midst of organizing the 4th Annual Common Ground Film Festival at the University of Manitoba. This festival contains three films followed by panel discussions. Each film profiles different international groups striving for peace through various reconciliation strategies.

My involvement in community work has been equally as fulfilling. For the past year I have been on the board of the Winnipeg Chapter of the United Nations Association of Canada (UNAC). This is a non-profit organization mandated to educate the public about the work and values of the United Nations. It focuses on issues surrounding peace and security, sustainable development, human rights and global cooperation. Being on the board, I have represented the board at a National Unity Council and Leadership Winnipeg terrorism roundtable event. I represented the board and had to present my views on the new anti-terrorism laws enacted in Canada post-September 11th. I also represented the board at an informal discussion with former United States Secretary of State Madeline Albright. I am a member of the Human Rights Committee on the board. Being a member of this committee, I have been an organizer of the annual Human Rights Conference for High School Students. I also fully organized a panel discussion/presentation on Children In War. This Children In War event consisted of two panel presentations. The first panel included people that are survivors of serious international conflicts. There were survivors from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Somalia. The second panel included representatives from different organizations that intervene in serious conflicts and work with children affected by war. There were representatives from the Mennonite Central Committee, Land Mines Canada, and an artist who facilitates art-therapy with war-affected children. The evening was a huge success with over 100 high school and University students in attendance. The President of the Winnipeg Chapter of the United Nations Association of



Left to right: Caroline Steele, Nancy Nathan and Emily Steele

Canada has asked me to Chair the board committee on Human Rights for the next year. UNAC organizes monthly public forums on a variety of topics, such as poverty, health care and AIDS in Africa. They also organize a public speaking competition, fundraisers, and specific events to celebrate certain special days, such as the elimination of racism day and international development week. I joined this organization through a fellow friend in Political Science.

I am a member of a federal government organization called the International Institute for Rights and Democratic Development which works with UNAC. As a member of the University of Manitoba's delegation I organize events and spread awareness through the University of Manitoba on human rights and democratic development issues.

This past January, I was selected to attend a national conference called "Withinsight 2006" in Ottawa. This conference is organized by Queen's University and the Federal government. Students from across Canada are chosen to convene in Ottawa to discuss and debate current Canadian political issues, such as climate change, the brain drain, energy and the environment, and corporate social responsibility.

I love Political Science and look forward to more community/school volunteer work. I will have the opportunity to study in Wisconsin, Kentucky, or Mexico next year studying International Security and Conflict Management and receiving an internship from a prominent non-governmental organization in the field of peace and conflict studies. After graduation, I plan to work for a non-governmental organization in a developing country and pursue an International Law degree. I work hard in the promotion of peace as a developing process and a goal. I believe that peace needs to be understood as not only the absence of war but also the presence of social justice, and in order to achieve this goal all individuals, levels of government and international institutions and organizations must be committed to working together to achieve it.

BH Family Welcomes New Orleans Family

BH would like to welcome Emily Steele, Grade 4, Caroline Steele, Grade 6 and their mother Nancy Nathan to the BH Family. Previously residents of Lakeview, New Orleans, they evacuated before Hurricane Katrina hit. When the hurricane was over, the family returned to Lakeview to assess the devastation left behind. Their house was flooded and all contents were destroyed. With only a suitcase each and a few family photographs, they travelled to meet up with Nancy's friend Howard Rybuck, a resident of Winnipeg.

Since arriving, the girls have enrolled at BH and love it. Similar to their old school in New Orleans, they have made many new friends and are beginning to feel at home. They have been tobogganing, ice skating, and even found out for the first time what a toque was! Nancy recalls that during the first snowfall, they drove down Pembina Highway and both girls stuck their arms out the car windows to feel the snow on their arms.

The family is grateful to have made it safely out of New Orleans and is in the process of making Winnipeg their permanent home.



Surviving Katrina

An account by Darlene (Andison) Burke '88

"To say that we are devastated would be an understatement. Everything that was life as we knew it in New Orleans is gone. It's not so much about the house or the stuff, it's about our life."

Just over five years ago my husband, our four month old daughter and I moved to New Orleans from Mountain View, California to be with a central nucleus of family.

We always knew that hurricanes were a risk to this region. I kept telling people, "I'd take a hurricane over an earthquake any day. At least with a hurricane you know when it's coming and can prepare."

Nothing could have prepared us for what we faced with Hurricane Katrina. And we were part of the fortunate group who evacuated prior to the storm.

On Friday, August 26, I spent a quiet afternoon at home trying to get back into some semblance of order and routine with the kids. At 5 pm that afternoon, I checked the National Hurricane Center as a storm had been progressing its way into the Gulf and the computer models showed the storm on a direct path to or very near New Orleans.

On Saturday, August 27, I went for my usual Saturday-morning long run with my running group and when I returned home, my husband Gibbons went out to the Southern Yacht Club for a Regatta that was to take place that day. The Regatta was cancelled and all hands were on deck – literally – securing boats as best as possible to prepare for the threat of the oncoming storm. The local television stations had switched into hurricane mode and were providing coverage of the

National Hurricane Updates as well as information regarding evacuation routes, hurricane preparedness, gas station situations (fortunately I had filled up the car just after the 5 pm update the previous night), and everything else you might need to know.

After our usual discussion regarding whether to stay and ride out the storm in a hotel or evacuate, we made our choice to leave and head west to Austin, Texas where Gibbons' company has an office. Little did we know how fortunate we were to have made that decision.

At 4 pm that afternoon, Interstate 10 (the main highway in and out of town) was opened up for contra-flow. This meant that all lanes of traffic were headed OUT of town. This greatly eased traffic congestion. Prior to the storm, New Orleans and its surrounding areas had a population of 1.2 million. It's no small feat to evacuate that number of people.

We awoke at 2:30 am on Sunday morning and were out the door with the car packed and sleeping kids in tow by 3:30 am. We managed to beat the rush to the road which became very congested when the National Hurricane Center updated its prediction to be a direct hit of a category 5 hurricane.

Due to limited space, we regret that we are unable to provide Darlene's full account; however she has made it available on her personal blog www.dardstuff.com. If you do not have access to Darlene's site through the Internet, we would be happy to provide you with a copy of her story. Please contact the Alumnae Office at (204) 784-1615.

Crestlines

1940s

Kathleen Richardson RIV '44

Congratulations on being a 2005 recipient of the Order of Manitoba.

1950s



Joan Williams of British Columbia and **Joan Clowes** of Australia at their reunion in May 2005.

Joan (Malaher) Williams '53 Joan (Sheppard) Clowes '53

Recently Joan Williams wrote to let us know that she and Joan Clowes have kept in contact regularly for the past 50 years. She wrote that "our reunion in May 2005 was the 4th since we left Balmoral Hall. We want to believe that we haven't changed!!" They both keep in touch with Beverley (Aird) Clarke '53 and Dolores (Palmetiere) Lauman.

1980s

Cecily McKee '80

"I currently reside in Victoria BC, where we have lived now for 13 years or so, coming from Winnipeg. I hate to say this, but I've only been back once. I have 2 grown children; my daughter Christa, (23) is travelling with her boyfriend in Australia, and is due back in February. They have been gone for a year now, and I'll be very happy to have her

back. My son Colton (21) is attending the University of Victoria, and is hoping to become a high school teacher. I have worked for the Hudson's Bay Co. now for 10 years, and have owned several different titles. My current is "Sales Manager". I often see my old Headmaster Mr. Russell, who comes in to say hello. I have very fond memories of my days at BH, and would love to hear from some of the girls from my time."

Asma Bukhari '89

"I had lost touch with the school ever since I got married in 2003 and just recently got back in touch. I now have a beautiful 1 year old daughter named Zahra, who was born February 6, 2005. My husband Omar and I are very happily settled in Long Beach, California and enjoying life. I really am enjoying the weather here and time with Zahra. Though she keeps me very busy it's a great pleasure to see her grow and develop. I visit my parents in Winnipeg once a year and am in touch with about 6 of my fellow graduates."



Zahra on her 1st birthday.

1990s

Tamami (Otaki) Asahi '90

"Thank you for sending The Portal. I really enjoy reading it every time. Hello fellow BH alumnae and a special hello to my classmates from 1990. At the present, my days are filled with looking after my daughter, Manaka who is 4 years old, and working to teach English to children as an after school activity. Though it has been a long time since I graduated from BH, I am still trying to keep my second language of English. Last year, my daughter and I went to the UK to see my old friends. It seemed like a great experience for my daughter. I'm expecting another baby now, so I will not be able to go abroad for a while, but I'd love to visit Winnipeg the next chance I get with my daughter and my future child. I am very grateful that I was able to go to BH. I want to thank all my friends, teachers, the staff and my dearest parents who

supported me. Good luck to everyone and a huge thank you to BH."

Venessa Schreyer '93

Venessa Schreyer has been working as a Registered Dietitian for the past 6 years. She currently is working in an industry position with Novartis Medical Nutrition. She is kept very busy with work and travels frequently. Last year, Venessa visited Balmoral Hall School to talk to the residence students about nutrition. The topic was "Body Sense – Be the Best You Can Be". This was an interactive session that included games, prizes and a question and answer period. Thank you to Venessa for taking the time out of her busy schedule for this session.



Venessa Schreyer hands out prizes during her lecture at BH.

Chantal Kreviazuk '91

"Well, I had another baby boy... they are 16 months apart. My house is crazy! I cannot believe it. I am working from home (recording my next album—STILL!) as much as possible so that I can be near both our boys—Rowan turned 2 years old in January and Lucca who was born June 3, 2005. I expect to have my album out sometime spring/summer of '06, and I am really excited. I have worked as a writer on many different projects lately, and going back to working on stuff for my own album is more special than ever! That is really about it for now. Love to all!"



Tara-Lea Herkert '95

"After I graduated from BH in 1995, I worked for several years in the wealth management industry while completing an Honours undergraduate degree in Economics (on a part-time basis) at the University of Winnipeg. I married a wonderful man that I met at the U of W and our son Ashton was born in October 2000. One day some recruiters from the federal government's Department of Finance came by the U of W and after their presentation I realized that I would really rather be working in the public sector where I could have the type of career in which I could truly make a difference in the lives of ordinary Canadians. I decided to go to Queen's University for an MA in economics and was fortunate to receive an offer of employment from the federal government half way through my program. Needless to say I accepted, and am now working as an economist with the Department of Finance in Ottawa. We relocated to Chelsea, QC this past summer. Chelsea is a wonderful, bilingual, semi-rural community next to Gatineau Park and is located less than 15 km from downtown Ottawa.

I often look back fondly on the year I spent at BH. I remember that it was a difficult year for me. I managed to do well academically, but on a personal level, suffice it to say that I had a lot going on. I received a scholarship and bursary from the school and was only able to attend BH because of the generosity of others, and for that, I am eternally grateful."

2000s

Melanie Brooker '00

Congratulations to Melanie Brooker on her recent engagement to Dr. Michael Coodin. The wedding will be held in Winnipeg June 11, 2006 at the Fort Garry Hotel. Mel is currently in her final year at the University of Winnipeg and will graduate with a double major in Sociology and Criminology. She says hello to all her former classmates and hopes everyone is going well in their chosen path.

Elisabeth Leitgeb '02

"I am a fourth year student at University of Toronto studying Physical Geography and Environmental Biology. As well I'm currently working at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada Mining Matters as a geological assistant. Also I am doing some research on step-pool sequences on rivers in south-western Quebec."

Melanie Hnatyshyn '02

"It was great to come home for Thanksgiving and see some familiar faces at BH in addition to all the new changes. It's nice to see BH still maintains small class sizes. In first year of university it was common to have around 100 students in one lecture! Since graduating in 2002, I moved to Calgary and finished three years of my Chemical Engineering Degree at The University of Calgary. Right now, I am doing a year of internship work—during my first term I worked for Agrium Inc, and in my second term I am working for Imperial Oil. In September 2006 I'll go back to university to finish off my fourth year and then graduate. I can't wait!"

Mhelanni Gorre '02

"Hi ladies! I visited BH recently with Melanie and Liz since they were in town for Thanksgiving. I'm currently in my last year of my Bachelor of Fine Arts at the University of Manitoba. I'm working on my thesis in Photography and will be showing my work with my other colleagues at the Platform Gallery in May. In my spare time, I do freelance work—mainly shooting for a local jazz magazine."



Lauren (Seaman) Funk '03

On March 13, 2005, Lauren Seaman married Dustin Funk of Winnipeg. On December 25th, 2005, they became proud parents of Lincoln Dustin Paul Funk, who surprised them 10 days early! Lauren is taking a break from studies to enjoy motherhood, but plans to continue on in business, and Dustin is the lead pastor at Oasis Community Church in Winnipeg. They both think Lincoln is cutest baby and best Christmas present ever!!



Marta Alphonso '04

"It's incredible how time flies! I've already finished my first year of an Arts Degree in International Development Studies at the University of Winnipeg, but I still catch myself glancing at BH suitable shoes while I'm shopping! Right after first year, I headed off to Trois-Rivières, Quebec for a 5-week intensive French language program, which made me comfortable in spoken French and gave me a good feel for what life would have been like had I gone away for university. In September 2005, I left for a 6-month Canada World Youth program to Ontario

and Kenya! It's been really exciting to have been granted this incredible opportunity as it has allowed me to put International Development theory into practice while learning about a fascinating culture completely different from anything I've ever known. I constantly think back nostalgically to my time at BH and the empowerment and courage that it imparted upon me. BH has helped me recognize that the world is full of endless possibilities, and I intend to make the most of them!"

Louise (McKenty) Clark '61

On June 5, 2005, one day after her 62nd birthday, Mary Louise Hepburn Clark died at Saint Boniface Hospital surrounded by family and friends. Louise was born in Winnipeg and educated at Balmoral Hall School and United College. Louise will be remembered for her fine sense of humour, her fabulous stories, her gift for teaching, her capacity to take delight, even in the smallest thing, and her ability to surprise even those who knew her best.

Diane Mary (Johnson) Dowling '51

Diane passed away peacefully at the Health Sciences Centre on April 29, 2005. Diane was born in Winnipeg. She attended Balmoral Hall School and United College. Her bachelor's and master's degrees were earned at the University of Manitoba and

her Ph.D. at the University of Toronto. Diane was devoted to increasing interest in mathematical education in our province. For many years and until the present she was a member of the Executive of the Manitoba Association of Mathematics Teachers and was the Chair of the Manitoba Mathematical Contest Committee.

Cecily Ann (Gunn) Egan '51

Cecily Ann passed away peacefully on January 22, 2006 after a two year courageous battle. She attended Riverbend School and graduated from the University of Manitoba. Cecily Ann was active in the University Women's Club affairs and an avid bridge player. She approached life with intensity and passion and she will be sorely missed by her relatives and many friends across Canada and the U.K.

Evelyn Elizabeth (MacKay) Martin RIV '36

Betty, formerly of Warsaw Avenue in Winnipeg, passed away peacefully on September 10, 2004 at the Pembina Place Personal Care Home. She attended Isbister School and Riverbend School for Girls and received her B.A. from United College in 1939. She graduated from the School of Nursing at the General Hospital in 1943, and went on to complete a one year diploma course in Public Health nursing at McGill in 1946-47. Her nursing career was a defining part of her life, first in public health units around the province and then, from 1959 to 1978, in the Premature Nursery at the Womens Pavilion of the General Hospital.

Ann (Kobar) Purcell RLS '48

Ann passed away on January 30, 2006 at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Barrie, Ontario, at the

age of 76 years following a lengthy illness. She attended Rupert's Land Girls' School and Success Business College in Winnipeg. In 1959 she married Phillip Purcell and has since resided in Toronto and Barrie, Ontario, with her family.

Gwendolyn Sherstone RLS '36

Gwendolyn Sherstone died peacefully after a short illness, on December 8, 2005, at Donwood Manor. Following graduation from Rupert's Land School, Gwen began a lengthy teaching career in 1936 in Onion Lake, Elkhorn and Prince Edward School in Winnipeg. She chose early retirement in order to volunteer her time and talents to St. Stephen's Anglican Church, in which her father had served as Parish Priest. Her life will long be celebrated by her nieces, nephews and close friends.





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